IN THE CLAIMS

1-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Currently amended) A method of annealing a magnetic amorphous alloy article comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;

(b) disposing said unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said amorphous alloy to a tensile ~~force~~ stress σ along said longitudinal axis to produce an annealed article; and

(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least an Fe content larger than about 30 at%, Ni, Si, B ~~iron and nickel~~ and at least one element from the group consisting of Groups Vb and VIb of the periodic table so that $dH_k/d\sigma>0$, where H_k is an induced isotropy field, and the annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to a combination of said composition, said temperature and said tensile stress~~, the method further comprising applying a magnetic field to said amorphous alloy article in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis during step (b)~~.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said amorphous alloy article has an article plane and comprising applying said magnetic field with a magnitude of at last 2 kOe and a significant component perpendicular to the article plane.

6. (Cancelled).

Claims 7-11 have been cancelled.

7-11. (Cancelled).

12-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Currently amended) A method of making a marker for use in magnetomechanical electronic article surveillance system comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;

(b) disposing said at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said at least one amorphous alloy to a tensile ~~force~~ stress σ along said longitudinal axis to produce at least one annealed article;

(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least an Fe content larger than about 30 at%, Ni, Si, B ~~iron and nickel~~ and at least one element from the group consisting of Groups Vb and VIb of the periodic table so that $dH_k/d\sigma>0$, where H_k is an induced isotropy field, and said at least one annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to a combination of said composition, said temperature and said tensile stress;

(d) placing said at least one annealed article adjacent a magnetized ferromagnetic bias element which produces a bias magnetic field; and

(e) encapsulating said at least one annealed article and said bias element in a housing[[;]]

~~, the method further comprising applying a magnetic field to said at least one amorphous alloy article in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis during step (b).~~

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein said at least one amorphous alloy article has an article plane and comprising applying said magnetic fluid with a magnitude of at least 2 kOe and a significant component perpendicular to the article plane.

19. (Cancelled).

Claims 20-25 have been cancelled.

20-25. (Cancelled)

26-50. (Cancelled)

Add the following new claims:

51. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least one of MoNb and Cr as said at least one element from the group consisting of Groups Vb and VIb of the periodic table.

52. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to comprise Co in an amount less than or equal to about 4 at%.

53. (New) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least one of MoNb and Cr as said at least one element from the group consisting of Groups Vb and VIb of the periodic table.

54. (New) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to comprise Co in an amount less than or equal to about 4 at%.